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General Assembly

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Committee on Conferences
Organizational session for 2014

Annotated provisional agenda for the organizational session for 2014

Provisional agenda

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and date for the organizational session for 2014.
4. Organization of work for 2014:
   (a) Intersessional departures and related matters;
   (b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017.
5. Programme of work for 2014.
6. Adoption of the agenda and dates for the substantive session of 2014.
7. Other business.

Annotations

1. Opening of the session

In accordance with past practice, the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management will preside at the opening of the session and proceed with the nomination and election of the Chair.

2. Election of officers

Rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that committees other than Main Committees shall elect a Chair, one or more Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence. The Bureau of the Committee on Conferences comprises a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

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At its organizational session for 1989, held on 1 March 1989, the Committee agreed in principle that thenceforth the chairmanship would rotate annually among the regional groups. At its organizational session for 2013 (522nd meeting), held on 29 April 2013, the Committee agreed in principle that the Chair would undertake informal consultations with a view to determining the composition of the Bureau for 2014 and that the Chair and the other members of the Bureau would continue in their capacities until the 2014 Bureau had been elected.

Documentation: Membership of the Committee on Conferences for 2014 (A/AC.172/2014/INF/1) (to be issued)

3. Adoption of the agenda and date for the organizational session for 2014

The Committee may wish to consider holding its organizational session on 23 April 2014 and taking up agenda item 4 (b) at that session.

4. Organization of work for 2014

At its organizational session for 2013, held on 29 April 2013, the Committee on Conferences adopted the agenda for its substantive session of 2013 and requested the Secretariat to submit to it at its organizational session for 2014 a provisional agenda for its substantive session of 2014.

(a) Intersessional departures and related matters

The Committee will consider requests for intersessional departures in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 46/190, in which the Assembly took note of the guidelines adopted by the Committee (A/46/32, para. 77), and in accordance with the decisions taken by the Committee at its 373rd meeting, on 26 August 1994, at its 379th meeting, on 23 March 1995, and at its substantive session of 1995.

In accordance with legislative mandates, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management will administer the programme of meetings as stated in the report of the Secretary-General on improving the performance of the Department (A/57/289, para. 15).

Moreover, meetings of the Committee may be required under the terms of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 35/10 A, by which the Assembly decided that all proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings made at sessions of the Assembly shall be reviewed by the Committee when administrative implications are being considered under the requirements of rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

In accordance with regulation 4.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee may wish to review the proposed strategic framework once issued and to transmit its recommendations, if any, to the Chair of the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Documentation: Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 1)) (to be issued)

5. Programme of work for 2014

The terms of reference of the Committee are set forth in paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988.

The annex to the present document contains a provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2014. The provisional agenda takes into account standing mandates from the Committee and the General Assembly, as well as information requested by the Assembly in its resolution 68/251 of 27 December 2013 on the pattern of conferences and under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of its resolution 68/246 of 27 December 2013 on questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. In the annotations to the provisional agenda the relevant paragraphs in the above resolutions are referred to instead of being quoted in extenso.

The information requested by the General Assembly will be presented in a consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences. Statistical and other relevant data will be presented as supplementary information to the report, as was done in 2013.

6. Adoption of the agenda and dates for the substantive session of 2014

The Committee may wish to consider the dates proposed for its 2014 substantive session, namely, 2 to 8 September 2014.

7. Other business

Annex

Annotated provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2014

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Calendar of conferences and meetings:
   (a) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243;
   (b) Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2015;
   (c) Intersessional departures for 2014.
3. Meetings management:
   (a) Utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities:
      (i) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs and consultations with bodies concerning utilization of conference-servicing resources;
      (ii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of bodies entitled to meet "as required";
      (iii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States;
      (iv) Utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;
      (v) Utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa;
   (b) Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation.
4. Integrated global management.
5. Matters related to documentation and publications.
6. Matters related to translation and interpretation.
7. Organization of work.
8. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

2. Calendar of conferences and meetings

(a) Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

The Secretariat will report on requests received pursuant to paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 47/202 A of 22 December 1992 and section I, paragraph 7, of Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, for action by the Committee.

Documentation: Letter from the Chair of the Committee on Conferences to the President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly (A/69/__)

(b) Adoption of the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings for 2015

The draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2015 will be prepared pursuant to section I, paragraphs 2 and 3, of General Assembly resolution 68/251 of 27 December 2013 on the pattern of conferences.

Documentation: Calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for the biennium 2014-2015 (A/AC.172/2014/2) and draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2015 (A/AC.172/2014/L.2)

(c) Intersessional departures for 2014

The Secretariat will compile a list of requests for intersessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences and meetings for 2014, together with information on any action taken by the Committee.

3. Meetings management

(a) Utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

(i) Meeting statistics of United Nations organs and consultations with bodies concerning utilization of conference-servicing resources

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section II.A, paragraphs 12 to 15, 17, 28 and 29, of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

Documentation: Statistical data and analysis of the planned and actual utilization of conference-servicing resources allocated to a core sample of bodies at all four duty stations will be made available to the Committee as supplementary information. The Chair will report orally on consultations with bodies in New York and on written communications with bodies at other duty stations that have underutilized their conference-servicing resources.

(ii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of bodies entitled to meet "as required"

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section II.A, paragraph 16, of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

(iii) Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section II.A, paragraphs 18 to 20, of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

(iv) Utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section II.A, paragraph 20, of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

(v) Utilization of the conference centre at the Economic Commission for Africa

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section II.A, paragraphs 23 to 26, of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

(b) Impact of the capital master plan, strategy IV (phased approach), on meetings held at Headquarters during its implementation

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section II.B of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

4. Integrated global management

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section III, paragraphs 38, 40 and 42 to 53, of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

5. Matters related to documentation and publications

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section IV, paragraphs 55, 56, 69 to 73, 77, 78 and 80, of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

6. Matters related to translation and interpretation

The Secretariat will report on the matter pursuant to section V, paragraphs 86 to 88, 90 to 95 and 97 to 103, of General Assembly resolution 68/251.

7. Organization of work

In section II.A, paragraph 20, of its resolution 57/283 B, the General Assembly encouraged the Committee on Conferences to keep under continued review the procedures for the participation of observers in the work of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report

The Committee will adopt its draft report for 2014 and the draft resolution on the pattern of conferences for recommendation to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.